

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

To:

see form PCT/ISA/220

PCT

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY (PCT Rule 43bis.1)

Date of mailing
(day/month/year) see form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet)

Applicant's or agent's file reference
see form PCT/ISA/220

FOR FURTHER ACTION See paragraph 2 below

International application No.
PCT/EP2004/008539

International filing date (day/month/year)
29.07.2004

Priority date (day/month/year)
05.08.2003

International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC
B01D53/94, F01N3/28

Applicant
UMICORE AG & CO. KG

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- Box No. I Basis of the opinion
- Box No. II Priority
- Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
- Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- Box No. VI Certain documents cited
- Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application
- Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

2. FURTHER ACTION

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will usually be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA"). However, this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of three months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

Name and mailing address of the ISA:



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IAP20 Rec'd PCT/PTO 03 FEB 2006

Box No. I Basis of the opinion

1. With regard to the **language**, this opinion has been established on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
 This opinion has been established on the basis of a translation from the original language into the following language , which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b)).
2. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:
 - a. type of material:
 a sequence listing
 table(s) related to the sequence listing
 - b. format of material:
 in written format
 in computer readable form
 - c. time of filing/furnishing:
 contained in the international application as filed.
 filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
 furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.
3. In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.
4. Additional comments:

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.
PCT/EP2004/008539

Box No. II Priority

1. The following document has not been furnished:

copy of the earlier application whose priority has been claimed (Rule 43bis.1 and 66.7(a)).
 translation of the earlier application whose priority has been claimed (Rule 43bis.1 and 66.7(b)).

Consequently it has not been possible to consider the validity of the priority claim. This opinion has nevertheless been established on the assumption that the relevant date is the claimed priority date.

2. This opinion has been established as if no priority had been claimed due to the fact that the priority claim has been found invalid (Rules 43bis.1 and 64.1). Thus for the purposes of this opinion, the international filing date indicated above is considered to be the relevant date.

3. Additional observations, if necessary:

**Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or
industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	3,4,6-8,10,11
	No: Claims	1,2,5,9
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	3,4,6-8,10,11
	No: Claims	1,2,5,9
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	1-11
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application

The following defects in the form or contents of the international application have been noted:

see separate sheet

Re Item V:

Reference is made to the following documents:

D1: EP-A-0984142

D2: US-A-5492679

1. Documents D1 and D2 disclose a catalyst arrangement for purifying gases of internal combustion engines.
The catalyst arrangement comprises an open-pored, porous carrier (wall flow filter) having an entry surface and an exit surface for the exhaust gas, wherein the entry and exit surfaces of the carrier are coated with different, catalytically active layers: one layer is formed by a SCR catalyst, the other is able to store NO_x and to convert NO_x to ammonia.
Indeed, when considering the subject-matter of claims 1,2,5 and 9 the content of the description has been taken into account. More particularly the "various combinations" mentioned on page 5, lines 5-13, have been considered.
Moreover it is submitted that the "entry" and "exit" surfaces are only defined as such when conducting the process (of claim 10 e.g.).
The subject-matter of claims 1,2,5 and 9 therefore does not meet the requirements of Art. 33(2) PCT.
2. It appears that the subject-matter of claims 3,4,6-8,10 and 11 is not disclosed in any of the cited prior art documents.
3. The subject-matter of claims 3,4,6-8,10 and 11 evenly appears to involve an inventive step because it would not have been obvious for a skilled person to use the claimed combination of catalysts in order to solve the problem posed by the inventor, i.e. achieve a "further" improvement in the conversion of nitrogen oxides (see description: page 3, lines 20-23).

Re Item VII:

Throughout the description EP 0 733 354 A1 has been read as EP 0 773 354 A1.